

WILLIAM FINNEGAN
Attorney at Law

May 7, 1997

Gregory Chan
Senior Community Affairs Representative
EBMUD
P.O. Box 24055
Oakland, CA 94623

Re: EBMUD/Sacramento Joint Water Supply Project
Public Comment

Dear Mr. Chan:

I was unable to attend recent public meetings regarding the diversion of water from the American River to the EBMUD water system. I ask that you refer these written comments and suggestions to the appropriate officials and have them made a part of the record of public comment.

I am writing about the recreational and aesthetic aspects of the EBMUD water system.

For many years, I have volunteered at Sunol Regional Wilderness, which is part of the East Bay Regional Park District, and EBMUD's portion of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail at Lake Pardee. Most of my volunteer activities have been devoted to building trails. I have been involved in the Coast to Crest Trail since its inception, and I hope to see it completed during my lifetime.

I am convinced that the residents of California want and need to experience natural environments and wild places in order to maintain a healthy and vibrant society and to understand the natural world. Therefore, it is imperative that we have access to as many lands as possible for at least two reasons. The first reason is to provide a variety of experience. The second reason is to reduce the impact of an increasing population on existing lands. EBMUD has a responsibility to fulfill these needs while safeguarding its watershed.

EBMUD can assist Californians in their quest for the real "gold in our hills" in two ways. The first way is by expanding the trail system on its lands. I suggest that a trail be constructed along the proposed water canal or pipeline from the American River to the EBMUD system. Such a trail would offer residents a wonderful opportunity to hike safely in open spaces relatively near their homes. If the increased use of the Iron Horse Trail through the San Ramon Valley is any guide, a trail along the canal would be very popular.

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	5-13-97	# of pages	2
To	Janet Barbieri	From	Kurt Ladensack		
Co./Dept.	Deena Black	Co.	EBMUD		
Phone #		Phone #	287-1066		
Fax #	836-5634	Fax #	287-1295		

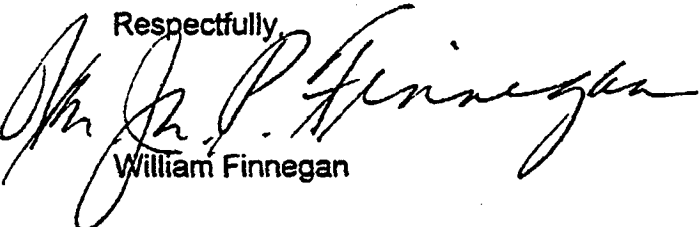
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The second way is by increasing the number of rangers to supervise and maintain the Coast to Crest and other trails. The existence and conditions of trails are the keys to the public's enjoyment of watershed lands. Trails require a sufficient number of experienced and competent rangers to supervise and maintain them. The investment in just a few additional rangers will reap great rewards with the public. The pressure for opening watershed land to public trails will increase as California's population increases. EBMUD can prepare now for future recreational needs by hiring and training rangers. My years of experience as a volunteer have shown that the efforts of rangers who devote a substantial portion of their time to volunteer activities multiplies the effectiveness of their efforts manyfold for the benefit of the public and the land. Therefore, I suggest that EBMUD immediately hire and train additional rangers for the expansion of its trail system and the supervision of volunteers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



William Finnegan